



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Kathy

APR - 5 2010

Mr. Thomas W. Easterly
Chair, Water Committee
The Environmental Council of the States
c/o Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Mr. Easterly:

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 2010, proposing how The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others might work together to clarify the requirements and process for States/Tribes who endeavor to assume Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA §404).

Supporting State and Tribal efforts to manage their aquatic resources is a key aspect of EPA's efforts to protect the environment. Thus, working to provide clarity in the CWA §404 assumption process is an objective we share, and I believe there are opportunities to better define the requirements and expectations of the assumption process. EPA is happy to engage in any efforts ECOS undertakes to help states and tribes assume the CWA §404 program that you would like us to participate in.

I have asked David Evans, Director of the Wetlands Division, to be the EPA contact for participation in this ECOS effort. Mr. Evans can be reached via evans.david@epa.gov, by phone at 202-566-0535, or by mail at: US EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (4502T) Washington, DC 20460.

I look forward to seeing you at the next PCOWS meeting in April.

Sincerely,



Peter S. Silva
Assistant Administrator

cc: R. Steven Brown, Executive Director, ECOS
Denise Keehner, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, USEPA
David Evans, Director, Wetlands Division, USEPA



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR - 5 2010

Ms. Lucy C. Edmonson
Vice Chair, Water Committee
The Environmental Council of the States
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 445
Washington, DC 20001

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Ms. Edmonson:

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 2010, proposing how The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others might work together to clarify the requirements and process for States/Tribes who endeavor to assume Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA §404).

Supporting State and Tribal efforts to manage their aquatic resources is a key aspect of EPA's efforts to protect the environment. Thus, working to provide clarity in the CWA §404 assumption process is an objective we share and I believe there are opportunities to better define the requirements and expectations of the assumption process. EPA is happy to engage in any efforts ECOS undertakes to help states and tribes assume the CWA §404 program that you'd like us to participate in.

I have asked David Evans, Director of the Wetlands Division, to be the EPA contact for participation in this ECOS effort. Mr. Evans can be reached via evans.david@epa.gov, by phone at 202-566-0535, or by mail at: US EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (4502T) Washington, DC 20460.

I look forward to seeing you at the next PCOWS meeting in April.

Sincerely,



Peter S. Silva
Assistant Administrator

cc: R. Steven Brown, Executive Director, ECOS
Denise Keehner, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, USEPA
David Evans, Director, Wetlands Division, USEPA